(b) if so, what are the targets; and

(c) whether Government also propose to popularise the scheme; if so, how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to extend the coverage of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) to selected perennial crops in selected areas on experimental basis. The crops identified are mango, apple, orange, pineapple and banana.

(c) To take the message of crop insurance to the farmers, publicity of the scheme is made. Some of the publicity measures undertaken are:

— Distribution of posters and handbills printed in vernacular language to financial institutions and State Government agencies.

— Participation in Krishi Melas/Exhibitions.

— Publicity through wall paintings and paintings on bus panels in rural areas.

— Broadcasting of Jingles on All India Radio.

— Newspaper advertisements in vernacular language and advertisements in rural-oriented magazines etc. are given.

— State level workshops and awareness programmes at districts/ blocks levels are organised.

Subsidy under National Agricultural Insurance Schemes

2508. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict subsidy in National Agricultural Insurance Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the existing provision in the Scheme small and marginal farmers are eligible for

premium subsidy @ 50% which is to be phased out on sun-set basis in a period of three to five years subject to review of financial results of the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Premium for cotton crop in Gujarat

2509. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the premium for cotton crop in Gujarat has been doubled in Kharif 2002 season, compared to Kharif 2001;

(b) whether there is a need to avoid such sharp increase in premium, which would adversely affect the interests of cotton farmers; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering any remedial measures to reduce the burden on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The premium for cotton crop in Kharif 2001 was 5.05% which has been increased to 9.80% in Kharif 2002 season.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, this sharp increase or decrease in the premium rates is due to increase or decrease in the variability of the past yield data of the insured crop based on which actuarial rates are worked out.

(c) As the actuarial rates are worked out by the General Insurance Corporation of India based on the set methodology, therefore, they may come down in due course of time with the reduction in the variability of yield. However, the small and marginal farmers are provided premium subsidy to the extent of 50% on sun-set basis.

Foodgrains production in MP

†2510. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.